

Middle School PA Newsletter November 2009

Dear Middle School Parents,

We can't believe this is already the November MS newsletter. October was packed with several events including the Student Mix, the MS/US speaker event with Dr. John Knight discussing "Why Smart Kids Make Risky Choices," Soup Bowl and Making Sense of Middle School. Also, the students enjoyed an inspiring assembly with Ed Gerety, one of the top professional youth speakers and leadership trainers in the United States. (It was a return visit for our 8th graders.) This year, the main message focused on having a positive attitude and getting clear and specific on their goals. He reminded them that they can always go farther than they think they can. Ask your kids about the message and/or dreamboards. He brought his book, *COMBINATIONS ~ Opening the Door to Student Leadership*, to share with students. He also shared a bookmark with his website & Facebook page.

November promises to be just as full. If you have any questions or concerns, please be sure to contact us.

Sincerely,

Catherine Mandile, Lucia Marshall, Peggy Fitzgerald, and Maria Toffoloni

What's Going on this Month?

Upper School Director's Chat With 8th Gr. Parents

Monday, November 2 - 7 pm - Chorale Room at US

Parents of 8th graders have an evening opportunity to speak with Jack Knapp, Upper School Director, regarding what lies ahead at the Upper School.

Wednesday, November 11 - Veterans Day - No School

8th Grade Science Fair

Thursday, November 12 - 6 pm

Have you ever wondered how long it takes for something to rust? How long does it take for various materials to boil? What do objects do when dropped at various heights? If you are curious about these and many other scientific questions, then the 8th Grade Science Fair is for you! Members of the 8th Grade invite family, friends and other members of the BB&N community to stop by to view their project exhibits. Those attending will have a wonderful opportunity to participate

as well as learn about the research, experimental methods, results and conclusions. Bring the whole family for a fun and informative evening.

One School/One World Day
Saturday, November 14 - 11 am - 2 pm
Nicholas Athletic Center

A Special Grandfriends Breakfast Event
9 am - 11 am at the US Commons

Grandparents and friends are invited to share breakfast with their grandchild(ren) after which they can check out the excitement at OSOW.

OSOW is an exciting, multi-faceted BB&N all campus celebration. The Nicholas Athletic Center will be transformed into a vibrant street-fair atmosphere, complete with a main performance stage, multi-media elements, food, activities, games, and information booths. Tables will offer foods reflecting the various cultures/histories/clubs of our BB&N families. Games and activities, which are currently part of our curriculum or community, will be played and accessible to all. Multicultural and diversity organizations and clubs will be stationed at info tables throughout the gym space. On the gym floor will be art exhibits, libraries & relevant academic information booths. The main stage will have continuous student-based entertainment from all three campuses. There will be a continuous loop slide show reflecting the faces and activities of all three campuses. A DJ booth will provide diverse & continuous music throughout the day. Flags of all countries will hang throughout the gym, as well as banners, posters, & other BB&N-based decorations. A giant map will be displayed and be available for those attending to note their countries of origin and will be used as a talking point for teachers, families & students. There will also be the Human Race Machine- a photo booth allowing the participant to visualize what they might look like if part of another racial group. If you're interested in volunteering for OSOW, contact Kate O'Kelly at klokdy@yahoo.com.

Mud Week/No Sports Week
Monday, November 16 - 2:15 pm dismissal - Study Hall available until regular dismissal
Tuesday, November 17 - 2:15pm dismissal - Study Hall available until regular dismissal
Wednesday, November 18 - 2pm dismissal due to Parent Conferences.

All students must be off campus by 2:05 pm. A study hall will be available at the Upper School in the Stonestreet Lounge at the Nichols Athletic Center (shuttle provided). Students should be picked up at 2pm at the Middle School. Pick up after 2:05 pm at the Upper School NAC.

Thursday, November 19 - no classes.

Friday, November 20, Dismissal from MS at 2:05pm

7th Gr. MFA Field Trips
Monday and Tuesday, November 16 and 17

MS Winter Sports Chat with Director of Athletics Rick Forestiere
Tuesday, November 17 - 6:30 pm
Nicholas Athletics Center

Parent/Teacher Conferences
Wednesday, November 18 - 3 pm - 7 pm -School in session - 2 pm dismissal
Thursday, November 19 - 7:30 am - 2:30 pm -No School at MS and LS

This year, the MS is introducing a new process for the teacher feedback for this first quarter. The MS will be sending home checklist reports by course on November 13th, with follow-up Parent/Teacher conferences available on November 18th & 19th. This is a follow-up to Back to School Night and will provide you with a brief but more personal glimpse into your child's day. Remember this is only a 10-minute "Meet and Greet" session. The format provides a window into your child's classes by subject. If you have an identified concern, remember that your child's advisor is still your primary contact and best channel for further conversation. If you are interested in meeting your child's teachers, it is not required, sign up using the online Parent/Teacher Conference Reservation System by Virtual Paragon found on the BB&N Homepage.

Winter Sports Begin
Monday, November 23

Giving Thanks Day
Wednesday, November 25 - 8 am
Noon Dismissal

Giving Thanks Day is the Middle School tradition for students and faculty to devote the Wednesday before Thanksgiving to community service activities. Following an assembly, the students will break into small groups for activities both on campus and out in the community. Any parent that would like to volunteer either to help and/or participate in an activity is welcome. Below is a list of ways parents can help:

If you would like to volunteer please contact Cathy Cuddy at cathycuddy@rcn.com or 508-314-5552 cell.

Parent Volunteers for Giving Thanks Day

Please label all items to be returned.

--MS Garden: Purchase garden supplies. 4 bags Soil, tools for 10 students -- shovels and 2 rakes, 2 pitchforks. TOOLS FOR LOAN OR DONATED AS THIS IS AN ONGOING PROJECT

--Horizons for Homeless Children:Fleece for blankets, need 10 pairs of sewing scissors (to use for day) for cutting fleece.

- Peabody Preschool: Need parents to make 40 cookies and buy enough frosting to frost cookies and bring to MS.
- On the Rise (women's shelter): 1 Knitter to help Students and Kathy Dorkin make hats and scarves.
- On the Rise (women's shelter) and Duley House (women's shelter) meal: Parents to purchase ingredients for the meals to be prepared. Email cathycuddy@rcn.com for ingredients list.
- On the Rise (women's shelter): Driver to take meal to the shelter.
- Christmas In The City Thanksgiving Drive: Purchase 12 large baskets to hold ingredients for Thanksgiving meals.
- Neville Center (seniors and rehab centre): Purchase low vases and flowers (dried or fresh) to create 12 table arrangements (ea. table seats 10).
- Neville Center: Purchase 100 bulbs. Need 10 bulb planting tools, 2 shovels and a pitchfork to use for the day.
- Our Place (Salvation Army day care for homeless children): 4 packages of Wikki Sticks - can be found at craft stores or hallmark store. Fabric glue (for puppets), 1 bag of flour, cream of tartar, salt, veggie oil (small for play dough), 16 socks for sock puppets.
- Giving Thanks Board: 1 box of Photo paper to print the still photos.
- Our Place: 50 Gallon size plastic bags and ribbon to put toiletry bags together.

Parents Be On the Lookout: As part of Giving Thanks Day homerooms will be collecting food items for the Thanksgiving Baskets and Toiletries for Our Place family shelter. Watch your emails and kids bags for lists and information.

Thanksgiving Break, November 25 - 12 pm Dismissal

Classes Resume - Monday, November 30

Faculty Appreciation Luncheon

Wednesday, December 2 - 10:30 am - 1:30 pm

Thank You to everyone for their delicious contributions to the First Faculty Appreciation Luncheon! The faculty truly enjoyed this special afternoon of delicious fare! Please help us show our appreciation by volunteering to help with our next MS Faculty Appreciation Luncheon.

Each month the MS Faculty Appreciation Committee hosts a special lunch for faculty and staff at which parents provide the food, drinks, decorations, set-up and clean-up. You can help by contributing a dish and/or coming to help set-up or clean-up.

Please contact Kevyn Fusco at kevnyfusco@verizon.net or Shannon Hayden at shannon_hayden@verizon.net if you are interested in helping.

***8th Gr. FCD Parent/Student Event
Thursday, December 3, 7 pm***

As part of our health education program and ongoing commitment to prevention and wellness, we have invited Glenn Hall of Freedom from Chemical Dependency (FCD) Educational Services to join our community for the week of November 30 - December 4. He will be meeting with 8th grade students in small groups during that week. At least one parent is required to attend the evening.

FCD is a non-profit organization based in Newton that provides alcohol, tobacco and other drug prevention for schools and colleges in the United States and abroad. Since 1976, they have taught over a million students of all ages.

Their mission is to:

- Provide students, parents, teachers, and school administrators with up-to-date information on the physiological and psychological effects of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs;
- Empower young people to make healthy, responsible choices regarding alcohol and other drug use;
- Encourage and support the non-use of alcohol and other drugs during adolescence;
- Teach students and adults how to recognize the early warning signs of chemical dependency and to intervene appropriately.

Special Thank Yous

We would like to acknowledge all those who have helped make this busy fall run so smoothly.

Thank you to Ellie Loughlin, Cindy Savage, Susan Tinagero and Joan Rosenberg for their efforts in getting pizza delivered and served each Wednesday.

Thank you to Ellie Loughlin for running the Student Mix. The kids truly enjoyed themselves. We also would like to thank all those parents and teachers who volunteered to help with this event. We appreciate your energy and efforts.

A special offer of gratitude to Libby Maclaren for organizing the Soup Bowl Dinner and making it such a success. The PA would like to recognize Jamie Wallace and all of the teachers and staff who contributed to the Making Sense of Middle School evening.

We extend an enormous thank you to our counterparts at the US Lisa Aulet, Tammy McLeod, Kasey Kaufman, and Maureen DiChiara for their grace and intelligence in putting together an evening with Dr. John Knight to discuss “Why Smart Kids Make Risky Choices.”

One last reminder, if you haven't sent in your money for pizza lunch or the yearbook, please make check payable to the BB&N MSPA and send to the MSPA, 80 Sparks Street, Cambridge, MA 02138 - thank you.

We wish you a wonderful month ahead.